

PRELIMINARY PEACE MEET POSTPONED?

HINDENBURG BIGGER ARMY PLAN BACKED

Move to Make Force
Stronger Than Ever
Is O. K'd.

London, Dec. 21.—The German government has accepted Field Marshal von Hindenburg's plan to form a people's guard or national army, according to a Copenhagen dispatch to the Daily Mail. It said that the German army under this plan, will be stronger than ever. All officers have received instructions to keep the details secret. Women will be employed for auxiliary services.

Munich, Dec. 21.—Dr. Lappe, mayor of Frankfurt-on-Main, announced that the German national assembly will meet there.

Paris, Dec. 21.—(Havas).—The Carliand Gazette announces that the town of Carliand has asked the United States to recognize it as a republic, "on account of its international character," the Zurich correspondent of the Matin reports.

Alles Asked Into Vienna!

Zurich newspapers today printed a Vienna dispatch carrying the report that the Austrian government "in order to avoid fresh disturbances" had asked the allied authorities to occupy the Austro-Hungarian capital. The sending of French, British and American troops for this purpose was requested.

Connections Cut.

Prague, Dec. 20.—With the occupation of Eger and Kolozsvar the Czech-Slovakia seem to have all the German-Bohemia cut off from German Austria. German Bohemia is unable to resist, since the Austrian army does not exist.

Eger is a Bohemian town 92 miles west of Prague. It is built on a steep eminence and was formerly an important fortress. Kolozsvar is 88 miles northeast of Prague.

'RAINBOW' CHIEF GIVEN AIR POST

Commander of Famous Division
Appointed to Succeed Ryan
as Aero Director.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Appointment of Major General Charles T. Mencher, who commanded the Fourth (Rainbow) division in France as director of air service, succeeding John D. Ryan, was announced today by General March.

Colonel James A. Mearns has been named acting director of air service, succeeding William C. Potter.

General March explained that these two details brought the production machinery of the permanent military organization.

General March now on his way home to take up his new duties, General March said, his old division, the Rainbow, is attached to the American army of occupation on the Rhine. General March's record as division commander during the war was brilliant, and he is being promoted to the Sixth army zone some time before the signing of the armistice.

Assignment of these regular army officers to take up the air service previously held by civilians of wide business experience is that in the forthcoming air service will be treated as an integral part of the military establishment.

The new air service will be headed by a separate director, and the new director may be appointed an assistant chief of the general staff in order to complete this military organization.

HAGUE AUDIENCE TREATED TO WAR PICTURE OF U. S.

The Hague.—Under the auspices of the American committee of public relations, the first exhibition of the American war film collection, "America's Answer," was given here recently to a select audience composed of chief officers of the federal staff of the Dutch army and navy invited by American military and naval attaches.

The film consisted of eight reels showing the American fleet in European waters, transport and hospital services and other aspects of American participation in the war. A feature of interest proved to be the series of pictures of American soldiers, which were shown with great interest and enthusiasm.

While views showing President Wilson and General Pershing drew spontaneous cheers.

The music accompaniment was furnished by American and Spanish-American bands of the United States army and navy.

Stripped of Huns, Large Sum Needed to Rebuild Poland

Warsaw, Wednesday, Dec. 18.—(By the Associated Press).—Poland was stripped of all materials and machinery during the German occupation, which ended Nov. 11. On that day, a few thousand soldiers of the Polish legion, aided by the population of Warsaw, disarmed more than twenty thousand German soldiers who had planned a revolt against their own officers.

All food and all telephone wires were removed by the Germans. All industrial plants were robbed and dismantled with the result that Poland will have a hard job to start in again even if financial and political conditions were of the best, observers say.

Discussing the economic situation in Poland, Stanislaw Laskowski, director of the Commercial bank of Warsaw, said to the correspondent today:

"It will take nearly \$2,000,000,000 to repair the damage during the German occupation and put us on our feet properly and to develop our great natural resources. Our oil products return 200,000,000 marks annually and we are rich in coal and salt mines, potash, forests and agricultural products."

"At the present time the economic situation is confused because Russian rubles, Austrian crowns and German marks are in circulation."

"First, we must establish a sound government which will have the confidence of the outside world. Any government must have money to run itself, but it cannot get money without confidence. When such a government is established we will put out foreign loans for the purpose of buying materials and starting up factories. It is even necessary for us to obtain loans in order to buy clothes, also machinery and locomotives. Everything in the country must be rebuilt along new lines."

"The Germans transported home all the machinery from the industrial city of Lodz, and then set fire to the city. This was one of their crimes in 1914. They did this although there was no battle fought there. They drove out the people by bombing the city and then robbed it methodically."

"The Germans also requisitioned all the factories and machinery in Lodz, which is the Polish Manchester, with its vast cotton and woolen mills. During their entire occupation they continued to loot Lodz. Even last September they carried away all the iron plates and floorings from the factories."

"They stole our vegetables and fruits. They took by requisition everything they wanted."

"While they did not rob our banks, on the third day of the occupation of Warsaw in 1915, the director of the Deutsche bank of Berlin came to me and demanded my cash balance of rubles, the sum of which was claimed would regulate our debts to his bank."

"The Germans did the same thing in Rumania after the treaty of Bucharest."

"It will take \$200,000,000 to reconstruct our industry without counting the other sums we must spend gradually for repairing the railways and cities and rebuilding houses ruined during the war."

ALL COMFORTS OF HOME DISCOVERED IN HUNS' DUGOUTS

With the American Armies in the field, (Correspondence of the Associated Press).—All the comforts of home, with some added luxuries, were found in the dugouts and living quarters which the Germans were forced to abandon when the American troops smashed through the St. Mihiel salient and took the territory which the German army had occupied for four years.

Running water, electric light, music, heat, tennis courts, bowling alleys, swimming pools, pianos and wine cellars were some of the up-to-date conveniences which Uncle Sam's "moppers-up" had followed on the heels of the rushing American soldiers, found in some of the quarters of the German officers.

The more elaborate quarters were located in the thickly-wooded hills which abound in this part of France and most of them represented the work of four years. The majority of them were of elaborate construction and usually had shell proof shelters connected with them. Furniture and decorations taken from the French inhabitants of neighboring villages formed the principal interior equipment.

BANKS SHOW INCREASE.

New York, Dec. 21.—The actual condition of clearing house banks and trust companies for the week shows that they held \$59,691,750 in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$19,322,250 from last week.

NO KRIPP DIVIDEND.

Berlin, Friday, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press).—The Krupp corporation today decided not to pay a dividend this year. The concern paid a dividend of 12 per cent in each of the first two war years and 20 per cent last year.

YUGOSLAVIA MARINE.

Carlsbad, Pa., Dec. 20.—Vice President Marshall urged extension of the American merchant marine under government control and said the peace conference must adopt trade agreements to maintain friendly relations.

THE HEART OF FRANCE



Sen. Reed Accused as Hearst Aide in Hot Quiz Hearing

Washington, Dec. 21.—Cross-questioning by Senator Reed of Missouri, who is not a member of the committee, led to a sharp clash at today's meeting of the senate committee investigating German propaganda. Senator Reed asked Senator Hiram B. Hiram, deputy attorney general of New York, in charge of the inquiry.

Mr. Becker refused to answer questions by Senator Reed as to the identity of persons employed by the attorney general of New York to get information concerning the German propaganda system. Senator Reed demanded that the committee instruct the witness to answer.

Mr. Becker asked the senator if he wanted to have information on "matters relating to his client, Mr. Hearst," whereupon Senator Reed told the committee that Mr. Becker's reply had been framed in an insolent manner and denied that he was appearing for Mr. Hearst.

"You don't mean to say that Mr. Hearst is my client?" asked Senator Reed.

"I beg your pardon," said Mr. Becker.

Senator Reed retorted, "Your answer was what your testimony has been all the way through this case and it does not reflect on your veracity. I am here in the interest of trying to develop some truth which has been distorted."

Mr. Becker based his refusal to answer the question on the ground that it was secret service work and secrecy was essential to its success. He said that he had known that "the Hearst forces" had been trying for six months to find out the names of the men making the investigation and "they haven't found out yet which shows we have a pretty good secret service."

Major Humes, who has been conducting the investigation, objected to Senator Reed's questioning, and Senator Reed asked him who he represented. Major Hume replied that he represented the committee and was under orders from the committee.

"If you do represent the committee," said Senator Reed, "I want to know what kind of representation it is when you refuse to give up the names of people who got this testimony."

"I will not dignify that question with an answer," replied Major Humes.

NATION PLANS TO LIFT CONTROL OF TANK SHIP FLEET

New York, Dec. 21.—Plans for the prompt release from government regulation of a part of the fleet of 174 tank steamships, 18 of them Pacific coast vessels, with an approximate aggregate tonnage of 1,400,000 deadweight tons, were announced here today by the United States shipping board. Only those required for supplying the army and navy of the United States with fuel oil, it was stated, will be retained by the government.

REVEAL GIRL BRIDE SLAIN BY SHOT GUN

Weapon Found in Home of
Piper, Alleged Slayer
of Young Wife.

Muskegon, Mich., Dec. 21.—The girl identified as Freda Weichman, and because of whose death Milo H. Piper, local insurance agent, is held here on a murder charge, was killed by a shotgun according to an announcement by the police this forenoon.

Investigation shows, the police asserted, that the weapon which with the shot was fired was held close to the girl's head, the shot going through the skull and tearing away part of the jaw. Wandering from the shell, they added, was found imbedded in the jaw.

Gun Found in His Home.

The police also declared that their search of Piper's home here had revealed a shotgun of which they took possession. The announcement by the police of the manner of the girl's death supplements the findings of three physicians who performed an autopsy on the body Thursday. It was announced at that time that the girl had come to her death by violence. The skull was crushed.

TALK ABOUT MEAN ROBBERS! THESE TAKE XMAS GIFTS

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Ten thousand dollars in Liberty bonds which were intended as Christmas gifts to employees, were taken by robbers from the safe of the E. J. Brach Candy company here last night.

RAIL CHIEFS FRAME PLANS.

New York, Dec. 21.—Committee of the Association of Railroad Executives formulated a program for return promptly after remedial federal legislation.

THE WEATHER

Probably rain tonight and Sunday, turning to snow by Sunday night; colder tonight and Sunday, but with the lowest temperature tonight above freezing. Strong north to northwest winds Sunday. Temperature at 7 a. m., 51; highest yesterday, 59; lowest last night, 49.

Velocity of wind at 7 a. m., 6 miles per hour.

Precipitation.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 94; at 7 a. m., 87.

Stage of water, 2.8; a rise of 2.1 in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERRILL, Meteorologist.

Hoover Given Hun Vessels to Supply Food to Starving

Paris, Dec. 20.—Herbert C. Hoover, American food administrator, will soon come into possession of a million tons of German shipping, which will be employed in revivifying devastated portions of France, Serbia, Belgium and Rumania, now destitute of food.

The needs of the entire nation and the Germans by the armistice commission without pledging that Germany would be supplied with food.

At present, no supplies will be sent to Germany, the first relief work of the allies being planned in the armistice. The German authorities will be able to collect only 2,000,000 tons, according to German advices by way of Geneva.

THAT'S AN AWFUL RELIEF! KAISER'S FEELING BETTER

Amersfoort, Holland, Friday, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press).—Former Emperor William, was able to walk about the castle grounds this morning. He had been confined to his bed since last Sunday.

The ex-emperor appeared to have recovered from his chill and while his ear affection still troubled him, it was understood to have been greatly alleviated.

COOLER WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday, issued by the weather bureau today, are: Upper Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys.

Rain south, snow or rain north portions early in the week with a fall to normal temperatures. Generally fair weather from the middle to the end of the week with temperatures near or somewhat below normal.

BISHOPS IN PROTEST.

Munich, Friday, Dec. 20.—Catholic bishops, under the leadership of Archbishop Faulhaber of the diocese of Wurzburg, have protested formally against the separation of the church and state and the abolition of religious supervision of schools.

SECURE SHIPS FOR TRADE.

Paris, Dec. 21.—Conferences between General Pershing and E. N. Hurley of the shipping board resulted in transfer of 1,000,000 tons of shipping from army used to American foreign trade. Control of German ships interned at Ham-bux is asked.

FEBRUARY IS NOW HELD AS LIKELY DATE

Paris Exchanges Also De-ferred—Wilson Confi-
dent of Success.

Paris, Dec. 21.—The preliminary peace conference at Versailles has been postponed until the beginning of February at the earliest, says Marcel Huot, editor of the Echo d'Paris. This postponement is due to changes in plans of President Wilson's visit to England and the reconstruction of the British cabinet, which will occupy Premier Lloyd George as soon as the result of the elections is announced Dec. 28.

Preliminary exchanges which were to begin in Paris today, according to original plans, have also been deferred.

President Wilson, in an interview, says he is confident that the big council of statesmen of the world will be able to reach a just and reasonable solution of problems that will be presented at the peace conference.

Get Down to Study.

President Wilson and the American delegates had today a day of few interruptions before them in which to study, in a preliminary way, various plans which have been proposed for carrying out details of Mr. Wilson's program.

Apparently the other powers are looking to the United States to bring forth concrete propositions concerning freedom of the seas. Probably the American delegation has not agreed upon any one of the many suggested plans having this question in view, but there is reason to believe that the proposed limitation of construction of naval craft to lightly armored vessels, like revenue cutters, whose sole purpose would be to protect merchant shipping, is the plan.

Advocates of this plan say there would be no further use for heavily armed ships were all nations placed on an equal footing by this means.

No Need for Fleet.

In answer to the British plea, that she requires a great navy to defend her colonies, advocates of the plan of limiting construction say that, with no enemy of the sea, England would not require a great fleet, as she could protect her distant possessions by troops dispatched on armed transports.

This is only one of the plans advanced to open the discussion and develop the views of other powers.

Correspondents Anxious.

Delay in formulating plans for the procedure of the peace conference is causing uneasiness among American and other foreign correspondents who are eagerly awaiting definite word as to whether open sessions will be held and whether the censorship will be relaxed as to news of non-military character.

Plans have been perfected for the American correspondents to make a trip through the battle zone during the Christmas holidays. Chantmont and Tours will be among the points visited.

Confers With Spain Chief.

Count Romanones, the Spanish premier, was in conference for half an hour with President Wilson last evening. It is reported the premier invited the president to visit Spain, but no official announcement as to Mr. Wilson's reply has been made.

Premier Clemenceau also conferred with the president during the evening.

Prepare Wilson Reception.

London, Dec. 21.—Arrangements are being made for an imposing military reception of President Wilson, according to some of the newspapers.

There will be a guard of honor at the station when he arrives and he will be greeted by King George, Mr. Wilson and the king will then drive to Buckingham palace through streets lined with troops. They will ride in the royal carriage, Premier Lloyd George will be among the prominent persons taking part in the welcome of Mr. Wilson.

It is said that the route of the procession will be as extended as possible so as to permit of a great popular welcome.

Receives Acceptance.

King George has received from President and Mrs. Wilson an acceptance of his invitation to be his guest at Buckingham palace during their stay in London. They will be quartered in the royal suite customarily used by visiting monarchs and will be entertained after a manner similar to that usually in the royal visitors.

A meeting of the war cabinet was held today attended by representatives of all government departments, to arrange the details of the presidential visit, which will last from Thursday next, until Monday night or Tuesday morning.

RIVER BILL FOR \$26,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The river and harbor appropriation bill carries a total of \$26,000,000.

Sen. Lodge Urges Delay Upon Five of Wilson Points

Washington, Dec. 21.—Five of President Wilson's 14 principles, were held up in the senate today by Senator Lodge, the Republican leader, as questions which might lead to division among the nations which have conquered Germany and which certainly should be postponed until after the peace conference. They are the first four and the last of the points enunciated by the president in his speech of Jan. 8, 1918, and relate to secret diplomacy, freedom of the seas, economic barriers, reduction of armament and the league of nations.

The senator delivered a prepared address on the problems of the peace conference in which he spoke of the heavy responsibility of the senate in the work of making peace, recalled that no treaty can become binding upon the United States without the senate's consent and declared that untoward results could be avoided only if the senate showed itself frankly in advance.

MORE SOLDIERS STARTED HOME

Sailing of Five Transports An-
nounced as Another Near Port
—8,773 Men on Them.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Sailing of five transports bringing home troops from France, was announced today by the war department. The La France sailed Dec. 17 with 368 officers, 3,337 men, 21 nurses, 15 French mission officers and several civilians.

On the 15th the Acolutha sailed with 2,939 sick and wounded including 105 officers.

The Tiscora sailed on the 18th with 18 officers and 70 enlisted men. The Sanblan on the 17th with eight officers and four civilians and the Terante on the 18th with one casual enlisted man.

New York, Dec. 21.—Bringing home 2,642 officers and men of the American expeditionary force, the British steamship, Baltic, of the White Star line passed Sandy Hook at 9:40 a. m. today.

The army transport Metapan, with 37 officers and 12 enlisted men, discharged from the American expeditionary force and bound for their homes in England, today. The vessel sailed from Pacific, France.

The Cunard liner Walmer Castle, with several hundred passengers, including many Red Cross, Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus workers, also came into port.

RULER OF ITALY LEAVES PARIS TO VISIT HIS TROOPS

Paris, Dec. 21.—King Victor Emmanuel of Italy left Paris at midnight on his way to visit Italian troops in Belgium. With his departure, Paris put aside her holiday attire and matter of fact consideration of conference arrangements began in earnest here today.

Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino of Italy remained in Paris, but will start for Rome tonight, expecting to return early in January.

The Italian king will start on Sunday for Rome, going directly from Belgium.

WEEKLY PROVISION AND GRAIN REVIEW

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Nearby deliveries of corn have value this week as result of serious delays to the crop movement, but later options have declined owing mainly to government figures that suggested an immense yield of winter wheat. Compared with a week ago, corn prices here were varied from 2 1/2c off to 1 1/2c advance.

Oats up 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c down.

Bears in the corn market made much of the official announcement that the condition of winter wheat was the best in more than twenty years, and that the area seeded was the largest on record. Decided uncertainty, however, developed afterward in connection with reports that country roads in many sections were in wretched shape on account of bad weather and that therefore supplies from first hands had been greatly restricted. As stocks of corn here were down to virtually nothing, shorts had no escape except to bid up December and January or else face chances of a squeeze.

In the oats market, the main factors were the slowness of export sales and off domestic shipping sales.

Continuous excessive arrivals of hogs, together with increased stocks of lard, had a severely weakening influence on provisions.

DESPAIR OF SAVING FOUR MEN TRAPPED

Nedauces, Mich., Dec. 21.—The four men caught in the cave-in of the mine here late Thursday were still entombed early today. Crews of miners have been digging continuously for more than forty hours but have not been able to reach the imprisoned men. Little hope is held out that any of the men will be taken out alive.

188,562 MEN LEAVE ARMY LIFE IN WEEK

Number Discharged Daily
Nears 30,000 Mark,
Gen. March Says.

Washington, Dec. 21.—With a total of 188,562 men discharged from the army during the week ending Dec. 14, General March announced today, the war department has about reached the average of 30,000 discharged daily for which the demobilization plans call.

On a seven-day basis the average for that week was 27,000 men per day, but in many of these demobilization officers did not operate on Sunday.

900,000 Named to Leave.

Additional units in this country designated for early demobilization brings the total of men so selected to 900,000, General March announced. Up to the date of the latest official reports 26,903 officers had been honorably discharged.

General Pershing has reported that 2,210 American prisoners of war were repatriated up to Dec. 16. Of these, 2,653 came through Switzerland; 324 passed through the American front lines; 150 went through Holland and 113 through Denmark. Those passing through Holland and Denmark are now all enroute for England, the dispatch said.

Few Yanks Still in Germany.

General Pershing expressed the opinion that very few American prisoners remain in Germany and believed these would be quickly evacuated. He said a continued search is being made for isolated prisoners, British and French officials in Switzerland, Holland and Sweden and in Germany itself, aiding in this search.

IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN LABOR WILL BE STOPPED

Washington, Dec. 21.—No more permits for the importation of foreign labor will be granted, the department of labor announced today, and permits already granted will be void after Jan. 15. Aliens permitted to enter temporarily for war work will be repatriated with the understanding that the laboring with agricultural or other work now in progress.

The admission of semi-skilled laborers from Canada will be discontinued, but present arrangements whereby skilled laborers are admitted with the understanding that they will be employed in their own country, and when those countries have given consent to their departure will be continued for the present.

The same order applies to Mexican laborers who came for farming, railroad, and other work during the war. Mexican farm laborers in this country may remain for the present; season and date of repatriation to be determined later. Railroad laborers admitted from Mexico may remain until further orders, with the understanding that the railroad administration will make the best use of them by transferring those who have been working in the more northern sections to sections where the climatic conditions are better.

RATHER BE WART ON STATUE THAN FRANCE'S TOWER

Paris.—He was spluttering with the boldest indignation of the man who wants to tell folks what he thinks of them and can't pronounce the words, when he came into the Y. M. C. A. headquarters. The gendarmes with ferocious moustaches and friendly eyes, shepherded him into the room.

"I, Americaine," they announced simply, and turned away with the air of those who have done their duty. They had learned that the Y. M. C. A. would always look after the American soldier in France, "What's the matter?" asked the secretary.

"Matter? There ain't anything the matter with me," said the American soldier angrily. You better ask them policemen what the matter with them! Say, they couldn't hold down a job ten minutes in New York! They can't even talk—just make noise."

"What did you want to talk about?" inquired the Y. M. C. A. man.

"Oh, I just want to ask the way back to the station, that's all. I left my rifle and my pack in the corner, and came up to see Paris. Now I got to go back to catch my train."

"I'll just telephone and find out where you left your rifle and your pack," said the Y. M. C. A. man. A few minutes later he was ready with the desired information, and with directions for getting "back to the station."

"Thanks," said the American boy. "I sure am much obliged. But, say, Paris is a funny place, ain't it? A little cleaner than New York, maybe, but, say, I'd rather be a wart on the nose of the Goddess of Liberty than the whole Eiffel Tower."